

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION INRD-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4219

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ASUNCION 4375

~~ROGER CHANNEL~~

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STAFF ON LETELIER CASE

REF: ASUNCION 4325

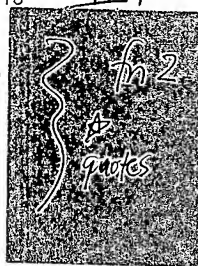
FILE

1. AT SEND OFF RECEPTION FOR DEPARTING BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 9, PARAGUAYAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL FREITAS DAVALOS BROUGHT UP THE LETELIER CASE AND TOLD ME HE HOPED COL. GUANES' PART IN THAT REGRETTABLE AFFAIR WAS OVER. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, I SAID USG WAS NOT TOO HAPPY WITH CHILEAN LEGAL PROCEDURES, ESPECIALLY THE SECRECY ANGLE. FREITAS DAVALOS SAID HE TOLD CHILEANS THEY SHOULD HAVE PUBLIC TRIAL AND CONDEMN CONTRERAS TO GIVE YEAR SENTENCE TO SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION, THEN RELEASE HIM A YEAR LATER.

SPECIAL HANDLING

#1-ARA

2. THIS PROVIDED OPENING TO ASK FREITAS ABOUT THE RECENT MEETING OF SOUTHERN CONE INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS IN ASUNCION. I SAID THAT WASHINGTON WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN WHAT HAD GONE ON. FREITAS SAID HE FELT THESE MEETINGS WERE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY BUT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN MEXICO FOR MOST OF THE MEETING, HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT THE PURPOSE WAS IN NO WAY RELATED TO THE LETELIER CASE. NOT ALL THE SOUTHERN CONE INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS ATTENDED; ONLY ARGENTINA, CHILE AND PARAGUAY. HE OFFERED TO SUPPLY ME WITH THE ACTA OR WRITTEN RECORD OF THE MEETING AND SAID AGAIN THAT WHILE THE LETELIER CASE MIGHT HAVE COME UP CASUALLY, IT WAS IN NO WAY THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF THE MEETING.



3. I SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF HE COULD GIVE US A COPY OF THE ACTA AND FREITAS DAVALOS PROMISED TO SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT TOMORROW TO OBTAIN HIS PERMISSION, WHICH HE FELT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. COMMENT: FREITAS DAVALOS IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PARAGUAYAN GENERALS WITH CONFIDENCE ENOUGH IN HIS POSITION AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE SPEAKS TO US WITH GREAT CANDOR. HE AND I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL TRUST AND I BELIEVE THAT HE HAS TOLD ME THE TRUTH AS HE UNDERSTANDS IT. I RECOMMEND THAT WE WAIT BEFORE SENDING SCHERRER TO ASUNCION TO SEE IF FREITAS DAVALOS FOLLOWS THROUGH ON HIS COMMITMENT. IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER THROUGH PAPPALARDO IS CONTROLLING EVERY DETAIL OF THIS CASE.

WHITE

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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~~IPS by 0 Date 12-7-16~~

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INR/IL (Newington)

~~Roger Channel~~

Asuncion 1969-79